

REDMOND COMMUNITY HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2016

MEETING TO REVIEW PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

MEETING SUMMARY

Task Force Members in Attendance:

Meghan Altimore, Steve Daschle, Carolyn Mansfield, Marian LaBeck, Derek Wentorf, Tim Short, Al Rosenthal, Andrew Koeppen

Staff in Attendance:

Charlie Gorman, Chief Kristi Wilson, Colleen Kelly, Brooke Buckingham, Karen Reed-Facilitator

Welcome and Review of Agenda – Karen welcomed the group. As there were several visitors to the meeting, there was a round of introductions.

Introduction of new Police Chief Kristi Wilson. Colleen introduced Chief Wilson, who served as Deputy Police Chief in Redmond prior to Chief Gibson’s retirement last month.

Updates related to homelessness in Redmond since the Task Force last met (August 2015).

Brooke, Colleen and Chief Wilson shared a series of updates on items other than implementation of Task Force recommendations:

- Oct, 2015—Human Services Commission has made a recommendation to the City Council to increase Human Services funding to keep up with growing demand; they are seeking a \$500K increase above current \$800K funding level in next biennium budget.
- Nov, 2015--Car camping pilot site at Overlake Christian Church started – this is an expansion of the continuing car camping site in Kirkland; oversight is being coordinated with the Kirkland church to understand and implement best practices here.
- Nov, 2015--Winter shelter expansion for families and women. Due to demand, the number of shelter beds were increased—both are located at churches in Bellevue. The expansion was funded with money from both eastside cities and King County.
- Jan, 2016—The One Night Count showed an 80% increase in the homeless count in East King County.
- Feb, 2016 to present—The City Council is considering how best to respond to request from tent city operators to reduce the cost of permits. Currently under consideration by Council: an encampment could stay 10 days longer than currently allowed (up to 120 days), and could use the same permit to stay in the same location up to two additional

times, after a 1-year stay in a different location between each such stay. This is a roll-back of what the Planning Commission had initially recommended.

- March, 2016—the Sound Cities Association and All Home convened together for a discussion on how cities outside Seattle are addressing homelessness. One result of this has been to re-engage regular meetings of Eastside Cities' police leadership to discuss homeless response strategies.
- April, 2016--Day Center in Bellevue has closed for now: they lost their lease, which was very low cost, and their budget is not sufficient to cover a big increase in rent.
- April, 2016--Application process for 2017-2018 City Human Services funding: the application states that if additional funding is available, priority will be given to projects that are responsive to Task Force recommendations. Applications were received for over twice the amount of funding available.
- Projected for June, 2016: Pilot project involving a newly hired homelessness outreach coordinator working in partnership with the Police Department. The goal is to see how this works, make adjustments in approach as appropriate and hopefully secure Council support in the next budget. The new staff person will also be asked to periodically convene other regional outreach professionals to discuss homelessness issues and responses in East King County.
- 2017-2018 Budget offer will include a request to permanently fund the outreach coordinator working with the Police Department along with two new police officers.

Task force members were then given the opportunity to share updates:

- Andrew noted he has been carefully observing behavior of people gathering outside the library and is seeing a troubling increase in the number of people and uncivil behaviors. He tells his friends they should not go to the library before 10:30 in the morning. Andrew also stated his opposition to tent cities is not based on a lack of compassion for people living in tent cities and he feels he is being unfairly stereotyped as not being compassionate by the service provider community.
- Marian shared that the library has conducted monthly "community discovery day" events over the winter; initially they had about 12 agencies participating and now they have about 25. Service providers are anxious to have the events reconvened every month; Marian expects the library will start up the events again in the fall.
- Al asked Chief Wilson whether having more services attracts more homeless people to the City? Her response was that this is not necessarily the case and that the point of having more services is to help more people. Al stated his concern about attracting more non-Redmond residents to the City seeking services.
- Steve reported that the County is developing the allocation formula for the first \$19M allocation of Families and Children Levy and that it seems a major emphasis will be on homelessness prevention which could help with a number of the Task Force recommendations.

- Tim said he is seeing more homeless people in his restaurants; typically they cannot or do not pay for the food they order. They are generally older than the clientele at the Landing, and almost all men. Chemical dependency and mental health issues are apparent with these folks.
- Derek reported that the Landing hasn't been over capacity in a while, so they have not had to "lotto" many people seeking shelter. They recently added an education program so that clients can work on getting their GED. In June, they will be launching a rapid rehousing program for youth with newly secured federal funds.
- Carolyn shared that her family is moving to Boston in June, and Steve Daschle has agreed to take her place on the Task Force Implementation Committee
- Megan reported that Hopelink is expanding its work to increase access to emergency food. They also are seeking a grant from the Workforce Development Council to help people with negative or no work history get jobs. They will hear soon about the grant.
- Andrea reported (via Colleen) that her church is working in Kirkland to open a day center for women and children. Catholic Community Services is partnering with them; money is being requested from both Kirkland and Redmond to support the facility. The ultimate goal is to transition the facility to become an emergency shelter for women and children.

Review/Discuss Progress specifically related to Task Force recommendations. Colleen presented the status of work on all the Task Force recommendations. See Attachment A.

Andrew will follow up with Arthur Sullivan regarding his concerns that some ARCH housing is not being monitored for compliance with rent limits.

Discussion of desired next steps. Task Force members are pleased with progress being made in implementing their recommendations, and would like to be reconvened in another six months to hear about further progress.

Andrew noted he would like to see an effort to have the visible homeless care more about the community and understand how much the community cares about them.

Al suggested that the City investigate keeping housing costs down by allowing multiple people to live in a single family house provided the owner of the house also lives there.

Andrew noted concern about economic stratification: housing costs are going up due to tax burdens. Without doing more, Redmond will become a city of only the wealthy and subsidized people.

Colleen thanked the group, and looks forward to reconvening with the Task Force in another six months.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM

Attachment: Summary of status of work on Task Force recommendations

Attachment A:

Status of Task Force Recommendations: May 1, 2016¹

Recommendation	Status
1. Increase police bike patrols	<i>In process; repurposing NROs to focus on homelessness and patrol via bikes; First deployed week of April 25, 2016</i>
2. Implement a community awareness campaign, including signs regarding panhandling	<i>In development—target launch date mid-June for initial campaign messaging (key messages include: Homelessness is a complex challenge; Redmond seeks to ensure a balanced approach focused on safety and compassion for all; everyone in the community shares responsibility for being part of the solution); ongoing campaign activities also in development</i>
3. Provide job training and positions for homeless individuals in the community	<i>Staff and committee members exploring options; anticipate including in campaign—What You Can Do</i>
4. Increase the number of transit passes available to the homeless	<i>Human Services partnered with Go Redmond to provide 10,000 additional transit passes (bus trips) to local agencies—priority to those that serve the homeless</i>
5. Create additional day center resources on the Eastside to meet regional needs	<i>HS Commission has shared its intent to prioritize support for TF recommendations if funds are available</i>
6. Partner with King County Housing Authority to provide housing opportunities for lower income households	<i>Working with housing staff and ARCH to develop plan. ARCH and KCHA have had an initial meeting with prospective landlords.</i>
7. Extend City's inclusionary zoning ordinance to require some units affordable to households making 50% or less of Average	<i>City Council Retreat focused partly on issues of homelessness and affordable housing; follow up study session on March 29, 2016;</i>

¹ Items under "Status" column in **Times Roman font** are annotations to the materials distributed.

Median Income	<i>Follow up staff report June 7</i>
8. Create storage lockers for homeless individuals	<i>Potentially incorporate as part of added day center services</i>
9. Increase affordable housing options	<i>Some specific strategies noted (# 6 and #7) above; also will include in What You Can Do (advocacy)</i> <i>City continues to address this issue with its leg. Agenda; Proclamation for Affordable Housing Week May 16-22; AWC convenings to discuss affordable housing strategies</i>
10. Create a City “Flexible Funding Pool” that can help people stay in their homes	<i>HS Commission has shared its intent to prioritize support for TF recommendations if funds are available; New program developed by Best Starts for Kids may become a resource that can be accessed locally</i>
11. Expand funds to help those living in shelters to secure 1 st & last month’s rent, security deposits	<i>HS Commission has shared its intent to prioritize support for TF recommendations if funds are available; will also be exploring improved access/leveraging of existing funds for this purpose</i>
12. Develop printable literature/public education program for Redmond residents to identify how to help the homeless	<i>In process—to be incorporated as part of the community awareness campaign</i>
13. Create/Support a periodic “day of caring”	<i>Redmond Library on point (Good example of “What You Can Do”!) Events will be reconvened on a monthly basis at the end of the summer.</i>
14. Support the County’s Best Starts for Kids Levy	<i>Passed in November; hoping to leverage some of the new resources the initiative provides</i>
15. Advocacy at the state and national level to restore funding for a robust mental health	<i>City Leg agenda and key community engagement opportunity (What You Can Do)</i>

system	
16. Advocate with the state to make it easier to access and distribute Community Housing Grant (CHG) and Housing Support Program (HSP) funds	<i>Non-profit agencies on point as this is primarily a service delivery issue. (No changes yet, but agencies are continuing to track this)</i>
17. Convene an ongoing commission of Redmond stakeholders	<i>Task Force members agreed to serve in this capacity; first follow up meeting May 4, 2016. At the May 4 meeting, Task Force members asked to be reconvened in another 6 months to track progress.</i>